

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Without acceding to the continued rejection on Ruth et al., Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13, and 14 have been cancelled in order to place this application in condition for allowance. Pending Claims 5, 6, 15, and 16 stand allowed. New independent Claims 17 and 18 include the allowable subject matter of Claims 11 and 12 as presented in the Amendment dated September 12, 2002. Accordingly, Claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled herein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13 and 14 separately in a continuing application.

This application should now be passed to issue.

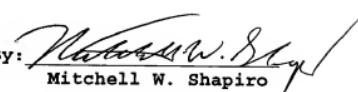
A check for \$86.00 is attached in payment of the required additional claim fee.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this

paper and has not been requested separately, such extension  
is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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